Nations requires approval of the General Assembly to amend rule 51 of the Procedures. Such a proposal has to be approved by a majority in the UN General Assembly. Informal consultations held by the Government in the past and a number of related factors such as the financial crisis faced by the United Nations indicate that this is not an appropriate time to make such a proposal in the United Nations. However, there is no bar to the use of Hindi or any other language in the UN General Assembly or its Committees, subject to the concerned delegation making the necessary arrangements for interpretation. We have availed ourselves of this facility when required.

False propaganda by Amnesty international against India

1506. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in 'Economic Times' New Delhi, dated the 26th June, 1992 captioned "Amnesty shows target India";

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) what steps Government proposes to take to check the false propaganda by Amnesty International?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) The Government has noted the news item referred to. Our Missions abroad have been provided with the relevant material to counter such propaganda.

India Mission in United States of America

1507. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Mission in the U.S.A. is at present without any Head;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and how soon the Ambassador is likely be appointed; and

(c) whether because of this situation many vital interests of India could not be attended to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir. The Mission is being headed by Charge d' Affairs.

(b) The former Ambasador, Shri Abid Hussain relinquished charge on 5-7-92 on completion of his tenure. A new Ambassador is likely to be appointed soon.

(c) No, Sir.

Presence of big naval powers in Indian Ocean

1508. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the *Hindu* dated 1st July, 1992, captioned "Indian Ocean minus peace";

(b) if so, whether with the recent Indo-US joint naval exercises the concept of establishing Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace has been given a final go by; and

(c) what is the latest position about the presence of big naval powers in the Indian Ocean?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Government's attention has been drawn to the captioned report which appeared in the *Hindu* dated 1st June, 1992.

(b) No, Sir. India remains committed to the Indian Ocean being an area without conflict; and

(c) French forces are deployed in Djiboati and Reunion. The United States is present in Diego Garcia, Singapore and North West Cape. There are mobile presence of U.S.A. China and Russian federation in the Indian ocean region.

Postponement of Indo-Pak Secretary Children

1509. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has subscribed to the U.N. Convention on the basic rights of the child;

(b) if so, what are the rights sought to be provided to the child by Government; and

(c) what is the percentage of the children in India who need such rights to be provided and what is the scheme to bring these children for due protection under the convention?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) India joined the consensus in favour of the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child by the UNGA, but has not formally acceded to it.

(b) and (c) The rights under the Convention relate to the survival protection and development of children and include civil, economic, social and cultural rights. States Parties are required to underfake all appropriate measures for the implementation of these rights. As regards economic, social and cultural rights, the requisite measures are to be undertaken by States Parties to the maximum extent of their available resources.

Postponement of Indo-Pak Secretary level talks

1510. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-Pak foreign Secretary level talks had to be indefinitely postponed in the context of maltreatment perpetrated on the Indian diplomat resulting in serious shock and injury to him; and

(b) if so, what was the Pak-Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) The abduction and torture of a senior Indian diplomat in Islamabad had vitiated the atmosphere, making a constructive dialogue difficult. Government therefore, decided to call for a postponement of the Foreign Secretary level talks.

Following the meeting between the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan at Rio de Janeiro on 14 June, 1992, however, it was agreed that, despite recent set back, the bilateral dialogue should be resumed.

(b) On 26th May, 1992, the spokesman of the Pak Foreign Office expressed surprise and regret at the postponement of the talks.

Influx of Chakma Refugees

1511. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Bangladesh have decided to set up a joint task force to deal with the problem of influx of Chakma refugees and illegal immigrants; and